

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 L-03 H-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /046 W

----- 003855

R 270851Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4350

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: N/

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, WA

SUBJECT: OWANBO ASSAULT TRIAL

REFERENCE: A. 75 STATE 268150, B. 75 PRETORIA 4702

1. TRIAL OF TWO SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIERS ACCUSED OF ASSAULTING AN ELDERLY OMANBO WOMAN AND BEATING HER HUSBAND WAS RESUMED IN WINDHOEK APRIL 26. THE INCIDENT ALLEGEDLY OCCURRED IN OWANBO IN AUGUST 1975 AT A TIME WHEN LARGE-SCALE ARMY AND POLICE REINFORCEMENTS WERE SENT TO THE AREA FOLLOWING ASSASSINATION OF THE HOMELAND'S CHIEF MINISTER. THE INCIDENT APPARENTLY RECEIVED SOME PUBLIC NOTICE IN THE US AND WAS SUBJECT OF CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY (REF A). MATTER WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RAISED WITH SAG BY EMBASSY (REF B).

2. SOLDIERS ORIGINALLY MADE APPEARANCE IN WINDHOEK SUPREME COURT IN EARLY MARCH BUT CASE WAS POSTPONED AFTER ONE DAY OF TESTIMONY BY ONE OF THE ALLEGED VICTIMS OF THE ASSAULT, 75 YEAR-OLD MRS. RACHEL NAILANGE. THE TWO SA DEFENSE FORCE PRIVATES ARE SPECIFICALLY CHARGED WITH HOUSEBREAKING WITH INTENT TO COMMIT RAPE AND ASSAULT,
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ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO COMMIT SERIOUS INJURY, AND MALICIOUS

DAMAGE TO PROPERTY. MRS. NAILENGE, WHOSE HUSBAND IS A
PASTOR IN THE OWANBO LUTHERN CHURCH, SPENT FIVE WEEKS IN
HOSPITAL AFTER THE INCIDENT.
BOWDLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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